GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1714
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2008
DELAY IN ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the inordinate delay in granting environmental clearance to various development projects;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government proposes to simplify the procedure for granting environmental clearance;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the extent to which simplification of the procedure for granting environmental clearance is likely to help in the clearance of the backlog projects?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) & (b) The Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification 2006 has prescribed a time limit of 105 days for Environmental Clearance.Environmental appraisal is carried out through the Expert Appraisal Committees based on the documents submitted by the project proponents as provided under the said Notification.Delay in grant of Environmental Clearance is generally due to non-submission of requisite information and relevant details by the project proponents.

(c), (d) & (e) Improvement based on the review of the existing procedures is a continuous process which is applicable to the environmental appraisal of the projects as well.The process of granting Environmental Clearance was reviewed comprehensively and based on the same,EIA Notification 2006 was brought out superseding the earlier EIA Notification 1994.The environmental clearance process has been decentralized for certain categories of developmental projects and the same are issued by the State level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), which has facilitated reduction of backlog of projects.